

great American traditions, the Daytona 500. NASCAR lost one of its greatest drivers who was in large part responsible for the tremendous growth of the sport from a regional pastime to an international success. Winston Cup drivers lost a fierce competitor whose aggressive style set the standard for a generation. Millions of fans lost the "Intimidator," a hero admired as much for his charismatic demeanor as his talent as a driver and tenacity during a race. Whether you cheered for him or against him, you couldn't help but admire the passion with which he pursued the checkered flag.

There is a bittersweet irony in that Dale Earnhardt finished his career at Daytona. The track at Daytona defined Earnhardt as a racer. He won 34 races there, more than any other driver. This earned him the reputation as the best superspeedway racer of all time. The Intimidator, however, did not win the Daytona 500 until the 1998 season. It took 20 years, but he finally took the greatest of all superspeedway races.

No other measure of success was as elusive to Dale Earnhardt. In 1979, he beat Harry Gant, Terry Labonte, and Joe Milliken for the Rookie of the Year in one of the most competitive rookie battles ever. He joined Richard Petty as the only other driver to win the NASCAR Winston Cup Championship seven times. He was voted National Motorsports Press Association Driver of the Year five times. Dale Earnhardt was the only driver to win the Winston Cup title the year after winning the rookie title.

Although he did his best to live up to his nickname the "Intimidator" during a race, Dale Earnhardt was the first to extend a hand and offer congratulations after it was over. This is the mark of a true champion.

Dale Earnhardt often expressed frustration at the practice of NASCAR to require artificial devices to reduce speeds on some tracks and the type of racing it produced. Nevertheless, he excelled at these so-called restrictor-plate races. In fact, Dale Earnhardt mastered the draft so well at these races that the fellow racers he passed remarked, "it was like he can see air."

In Alabama, we look forward to seeing the black No. 3 car on the high banks at Talladega twice a year. No matter where he started at the beginning of the race, you could count on Dale Earnhardt to be near the front by the end. His victories at the world's biggest and fastest track include, as I mentioned earlier, ten NASCAR Winston Cup races, as well as one NASCAR Busch Grand national race and three IROC races where he bested the greatest drivers of his time.

Dale Earnhardt was intensely loyal to his family. He was a father whose pride in his children was greater than his desire in winning races. Our thoughts are with his wife Teresa, and his children: Kerry, Kelly, Dale, Jr. and Taylor Nicole. May God bless all of them and watch over them in this time of need.

Former driver and now television analyst Darrell Waltrip perhaps best captured the sentiment of drivers and fans alike when he said, "The scariest thing on the track used to be seeing Dale Earnhardt in your rear view mirror. Now the scariest thing is not seeing him there at all."

The world will miss Dale Earnhardt and his competitive spirit. We pray that his family and friends find some comfort in the way his fans admired this truly unique American sports icon.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today we stand and honor the life and accomplishments of "The Man" Dale Earnhardt.

Millions of Americans will remember him as a NASCAR legend, perhaps the best that ever raced. But the people I've spoken with and read about who knew him well remember better a kind father, a loving husband, and a trusted friend.

For over 21 years, Dale Earnhardt delighted hundreds of thousands of people at the Dover Downs, International Speedway in my state of Delaware. Like most of the places Dale raced, at Dover Downs he won, and won big.

But the people of my State honor him for more than his wins at our NASCAR track, three first-place finishes, or the money he earned there, the most of any Winston Cup driver in history.

The reverence and respect from NASCAR fans stems from his constant pursuit of excellence and his refusal to give less than his all every time he took to the track.

They called him "The Intimidator," and on the track, that was true, but to the fans in Dover that he spent time with signing autographs, shaking hands, and in some cases sharing dinner at their kitchen table, Dale Earnhardt was known as "The Man."

Last Friday, Dover Downs opened up to those who needed a chance to say "good bye." Even though a blizzard had blown through our State the night before, over 5,000 people turned out to pay their respects. In a moving display of affection, families created in the winner's circle a shrine of flowers, posters, hats, pictures, and poems honoring their hero.

I was told once that the greatest measures of a man's life are the people he has touched, the difference he has made and the standards he has set for others to follow.

Despite his passing, Dale Earnhardt's legacy of excellence will forever influence his sport and its millions of fans. We honor him today for the lives he touched and the Children he inspired.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 29) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The text of the resolution is located in the RECORD of February 27, 2001, under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. LOTT. This is a resolution by Senator EDWARDS of North Carolina.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PEACE CORPS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 18, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 18) recognizing the achievements and contributions of the Peace Corps over the past 40 years, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, with no intervening action, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 18) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The text of the concurrent resolution is located in the RECORD of February 27, 2001, under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2001

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 1. I further ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period for morning business until 1 p.m., with Senators speaking for up to 10 minutes each, with the following exceptions:

Senator MURKOWSKI from 10 a.m. until 10:15 a.m.; Senator ENSIGN from 10:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.; Senator THOMAS from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Senators WELLSTONE and DAYTON from 11 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.; Senator CLINTON from 11:25 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.; Senator DORGAN from 11:40 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Senator HUTCHISON from 12 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Senator DURBIN, or his designee, from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.